

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES



JAMIE RASKIN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM

CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
VICE CHAIR

March 21, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Krishna Urs
U.S. Ambassador to Peru
U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru
Avenida La Encalada cdra. 17 s/n
Surco, Lima 33, Peru

Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador Urs:

At least 22 American doctors and dentists—including two of my constituents from Frederick County—are stranded in Cusco, Peru after attending a conference and touring in the country. Their flights home on Tuesday, March 17 were canceled after the President of Peru announced on March 16 he was closing Peru's borders in the wake of President Trump's announcement about the U.S. border.

These Americans have been told that they will not be able to leave Peru until possibly March 31 or beyond, although there are conflicting reports that chartered planes may be allowed to take our citizens home. The confusion, unclear messages, and lack of clarity are unacceptable. These citizens are being forced to pay for their own extended hotel stay which is overseen by soldiers and police officer patrols. These Americans are part of a larger group of our citizens stranded in Peru who registered appropriately for the STEP program as American travelers but have not received nearly the level of help that they deserve from the U.S. government, despite President Trump's statement at a press conference that he was working with the Department of Defense to get them out of Peru.

Meantime, they have watched helplessly as the government of France promptly sent a plane to pick up its citizens, as the government of Israel sent a plane to pick up its citizens, and as the government of the Philippines sent a plane to pick up its citizens.

After [writing to Secretary Pompeo](#) earlier this week urging him to use Department of State resources to safely and immediately evacuate stranded Americans abroad, I am now demanding

that Secretary of State Pompeo take personal responsibility for getting these people home safely. I am also demanding that the U.S. Ambassador to Peru Krishna Urs and the U.S. Embassy in Peru urgently contact these stranded Americans, monitor their condition, ensure they have access to all necessities, and deploy all available authorities and resources to bring them home. I have personally called and left a message for Ambassador Urs asking for the same.

The State Department and the U.S. Embassy need to urgently respond to this situation and assist our stranded countrymen and women.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Raskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jamie" and last name "Raskin" clearly legible.

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress